

GOVERNMENT



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**GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM
ECCLESIASTICAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT
GANGTOK, SIKKIM**

No: 03/ EA.

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NOTIFICATION

The State Government is hereby pleased to lay down the following Guidelines for regulation and management of the Monastic Schools and Sanskrit Pathshalas in Sikkim, namely:-

1. Mode of recognition of Monastic School or Sanskrit Pathshala

- (1) The recognition of Monastic School shall be applicable and entitled only to the Gonchen (Major) and Gonlak (Medium) Monasteries within Sikkim. No Monastic School shall be created and recognized other than the above.
- (2) The general monk body represented by Duchi of a monastery, if desires to seek recognition of their Monastic School under Grants in Aid shall submit an application to the Department of Ecclesiastical Affairs. (Application Form may be obtained from the Department)
- (3) No Monastic School shall be recognized if it does not fulfill the criteria prescribed, under clause 3 below.
- (4) Applications will be examined and scrutinized by the department in light of spot verification. The deserving candidates will be recommended to the Government for final selection and recognition.

2. Monastic or Sanskrit education routines

The routine will be set up as per the prevalent practices or with the consensus or guidelines of Duchi (monk body) of the six major monasteries of Sikkim and that will be a mandatory routine. Sanskrit Pathshala routine shall be set up on recommendation of the Sanskrit Pathshala Management Committee.

3. Terms and Conditions of the Monastic Schools Establishment.

- (1) The minimum number of enrollment of the students should be 15 (Fifteen) and above at the time of the establishment of the Monastic School.

- (2) The age limit flexibility for new admission of the students shall be considered and decided in consultation with the Duchi or Sanskrit Management Committee. However, the upper limit be set at 15 (fifteen) years with certain flexibility.
- (3) The State Government under the Ecclesiastical Affairs Department shall be the competent authority with full power to close down a monastic school if the enrollment falls below the average as specified by the department.
- (4) Minor disputes like (a) irregularity in the duty of teachers (b) complaint of guardians against the teachers and (c) Disputes among or between teachers may be settled by the concerned Duchi or Committee
- (5) In the case of serious matter other than the minor disputes, it should be referred to the Department.
- (6) It is compulsory for both the teacher and the students to be dressed in traditional robe during school hours as well as in the monastery premises.
- (7) The Teachers shall work in consultation or in close co-ordination with the Duchi or Committee.
- (8) The Duchi or Committee shall be responsible for supervising and maintaining the Casual Leaves of Monastic or Sanskrit Teachers. However, other leaves such as Medical leave or Earned Leave etc. shall be submitted to the department through the concerned Duchi or Committee by the teachers.
- (9) In the event where senior monk students are required urgently for performing any religious rites in the locality during school hours, permission shall be sought from the concerned Duchi or Committee in writing. The period they spend in religious rites in the village shall be treated as practical period.
- (10) All students and Monastic Teachers shall participate in periodical and annual ceremonies as per prevalent practice of the respective monasteries under the strict supervision of the concerned Monastic Teachers.

4. Holidays for Monastic School or Sanskrit Pathshala

- (1) All Government Gazette holidays shall be applicable to Monastic Schools and Sanskrit Pathshalas. However during Buddhist holidays, the Monastic Teachers along with the students shall be present at their respective Monastery to participate in the ceremonies. Similarly, Sanskrit Teachers should also be present in their respective mandir during the Hindu Holidays, such as, Ramnavami, Janamastami, Durga Puja etc. to cater to the religious service to the devotees visiting the Mandir. Further, the daily morning and evening rituals shall remain uninterrupted especially in Mandirs by the Sanskrit Teachers.
- (2) The school shall remain closed for Summer Vacation from the 15th of June and reopen on the 1st of July.
- (3) The school shall remain closed for the winter vacation for two months from 15th December and will re-open on the 15th of February.

5. Study Courses

- (1) Study courses are prescribed for 5 (five) years for both Monastic School and Sanskrit Pathshala students as per the syllabus published by the department of Ecclesiastical Affairs.

- (2) Progress report of Half-yearly and Annual Examinations of each class shall be submitted to the department in time.
- (3) A certificate on completion of 5 (five) years courses shall be issued by the department to the students through the respective monastery/ Committee/ Institution.
- (4) The passed out students shall be admitted in Sikkim Institution of Higher Nyingma Studies (Sheda) once a Elementary level course i.e. class VI to VIII is opened.

6. New Admission of Students.

- (1) The new admission process shall be completed within first week of March and the class wise and age wise list shall be submitted to the Department by the concerned teachers.
- (2) Admission register should strictly be maintained with records of all the students by the teacher concerned.

7. Annual Confidential Report of Teachers.

Annual confidential Report of Monastic Teachers or Sanskrit Teachers shall be written by the Duchi or Committee of the concerned Monastic institution or Mandirs and the said report shall be reviewed by the designated officer of the Department of Ecclesiastical Affairs, Government of Sikkim as per the Sikkim Government (Confidential Roll) Rules, 1976.

BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR.

**P. W. Rinzing, SCS
Secretary
Ecclesiastical Affairs Department
Government of Sikkim.**

